

The Mullen/Bennett Operation

published
Tracing the ~~What's Who~~ ^{leads} Hunt listings led to still more fascinating and Watergate-
political
connected clandestine work and deep/secrets.

Apparently after the CIA fund and foundation scandals and after the Littauer and
Wilkinson firm no longer existed, when Wilkinson moved the business to Long Island,
in Hunt's self-description in Contemporary Authors (pp251-2), ~~he~~ this one as "Robert
Salisbury Dietrich" with the pen name ~~for~~ "Gordon Davis," he made up a whole new career
for himself, coinciding with his self-descriptions in ~~one of~~ ^{portrayals} his series of novels, as a
CPA, and a lawyer. The history under "Personal" ends with "Agent: Littauer & Wilkinson,"

~~500 Fifth Avenue New York 26~~ ^{at} and gives as Office: Washington Building, Washington, D.C.

^{from 11} ^{then 14 Feb} ^{any perfunctory checking of this building would disclose that Hunt}
~~There is no~~ Any perfunctory checking of this building would disclose that Hunt
did not ^{have} maintain offices there. As soon as I spotted this what it had to mean was
apparent because I know the building. It is the same one ~~in which~~ ^{where} Hunt and Cushman
discussed, the one in which Cushman made his clandestine contacts ^{during his CIA career} when he finally got his

secretary to stop booking him on park benches. Consulting the city directory confirmed

^{on Littauer and Wilkinson} no Hunt office in that building. ^{The reporters ignored this.} ^{and highly reputable}
in a suite the main entrance of which is numbered "422,"

But what is there is a large, international answering service, Answering, Inc.

When I made inquiry the manager was absent. But subsequent personal investigation
established much. What is immediately relevant is that this company ^{does} provides more than
telephone answering ^{phones} services. It rents desk space, provides mail-receiving services,

Stronger and repeated efforts with the Post's ^BW team of Woodward and Carl Bernstein,
fame and great riches and a movie about them
who won the Pulitzer Prize/for their "investigative" reporting of The Watergate, even

^Wthen these suggestions were quite pointed, were rebuffed.

and even acts as a switchboard for clients with many phones in their offices.

Among these clients, going back for years, was the Robert R. Mullen company. And going back for years, well back into his CIA days, Hunt got phone and mail services before he was hired by Mullen on May 1, 1970 through Mullen and paid for by Mullen. As Mullen moved into swankier accommodations, the services moved with the offices. So did Hunt and his free services.

tr to 10

Although The Washington Star-News James Doyle and Ronald Sarro tumbled to Hunt as Salisbury in time to include this ⁱⁿ a story published ^{six} seven days after the break-in, they ignored the Washington Building lead. My subsequent efforts to interest this paper and its reporter, Joe Volz, in this lead, were unproductive. (Star-News 6/23/72)

There was a long period of time, before Mullen moved to 1700 Pennsylvania, when nobody in ^{its} the agency's offices answered the phone. An Answering, Inc., operator intercepted the call, announced the caller to the person called, and put the call through only if told to. This seems outside the ordinary practice ⁱⁿ of straight public relations work. But when Mullen ^{moved to 1700 Pennsylvania Avenue} made this move and Answering, Inc. ^{had} bought out Accurate answering Inc., which was on the ninth floor of a new office building at 1835 K St., NW - the northeast corner of 19th ^{and} - Mullen's services moved there. This included the cover address that Hunt was to use in a to-now unreported out-of-the-ordinary political operation that, while I cannot directly connect it to the White House, served White House and particularly Nixon's personal interests. and it was long before The Watergate, while Hunt was still CIA.

At 1700 Mullen ^{Secretaries} answered its own ^{Maumle R} phones, a bank, 293-2900 through 2910. ²⁹³⁻ (Deposition of Robert Bennett by ^{Dunne deposition p. 16} Michael Dunne, April 19, 1973, p. 16) Bennett and Hunt had private phones, 293-2909 and 293-2904. (Bennett-Dunne deposition, p. 46.)

~~These were answered by secretaries. Each phone had six buttons. The first four numbers were on a rotary basis. (16)~~ ^{Dunne deposition p. 16}

^{after moving Pennsylvania Avenue} With the initial arrangement, (to get to his office, Hunt had to go through the secretarial pool, as did Bennett, so the secretaries had a way of knowing when he entered and when he left. ^{Dunne deposition} (14) But Hunt did not like this, so a special door leading directly from his office into the doorway was installed. ^{hallway} (14) Then the secretaries were unaware of his comings and going. Or who else came and went, who saw him. ^{Dunne deposition p. 16}

In January 1972, which is after Hunt was working for Nixon, he had a private phone installed. ^{He} ~~While it~~ ^{the} did not permit ^{were not permitted} secretaries to answer it at first. There also was no extension on it, it did not go through the Mullen switchboard, and Mullen did not pay for it. Later Hunt asked Bennett, whose office adjoined Hunt's, to have Bennett's secretary take messages or say "Hunt was not in." Bennett agreed. ^{Dunie Deposition pp} (17-20). ~~But~~ ^{while} Hunt was ~~being~~ being secretive with the Mullen secretaries on his unlisted phone, he had another unlisted one of phone, in ~~the~~ ^{his} White House offices. That had an extension in the answering service whose operators could eavesdrop ^{but} (and didn't) and could take messages. 3A

Some of this information and some of what follows about the ^{Hunt} ~~Unt~~-Mullen relationship comes from depositions taken during the civil suits. While they were initially secret and the lawyers were bound to secrecy, in time they were filed with the court, became public, and were ignored by the press. Including Szulc, who in his psychological warfare ("psywar" in Hunt's novels) specifically denied that Hunt was a Mullen vice president, as Who's Who says, ^{had} casts him as a hired pen only. (Compulsive Spy, p.104) In fact Hunt ~~was~~ was vice president in a "mid-1970" when Bennett was interviewed for the job of executive vice president. Hunt is one of those whose approval was required. (Dunie deposition, p. 6-8).

At that time Hunt "was working primarily on the contract which we had with the Bureau of Education ~~[it was actually the Department of Health, Education and Welfare]~~ for the ~~Handicapped~~ as a writer and occasionally fulfilling the function of producer of television spot announcements. He had an occasional additional assignment given to him by Mr. Mullen on other accounts, but it was on a single project basis. His regular duties were confined to the HEW [Department of Health, Education and Welfare] contract." (Dunie deposition, pp. 8-9)

Unfortunately lawyers are not trained as investigators, consider their time to ^{or} valuable to waste on investigating and mastering the essential facts, and confine themselves to questionings for which they are rarely adequately prepared. ^{Had} If ~~Michael R. Dunie~~ ^{Michael R. Dunie} had been better prepared, he would have learned much more about Hunt, Bennett, Mullen, the White House and what all were engaged with, ~~the~~ the CIA, at this and later points in his deposing of Bennett beginning at 2:25 the afternoon of Thursday, April 19, 1973. 3B

~~Yet~~ no graf

Yet Hunt went to all the trouble to have this secret phone billed to his ~~secretary's~~
~~xxx~~ White House secretary, Kathleen Chenow, at her Virginia home address. The White
 House ~~rapidly~~~~xxxx~~ paid the bills.

3B ~~no~~ graf

Said
 (Unfortunately, this is also true of the deposition ~~taken~~ of Bennett taken by William A.
 Dobrovir for Public Citizen, Inc., one of the Ralph Nader consumer--protection groups,
Public Citizen, Inc., in connection~~s~~ with Nixon's financial scandals involving a
 promise of \$2,000,000 in campaign contributions from dairy interests. Dobrovir began
 at 10:10 and had completed his examination an hour and five minutes later the morning
 of November 10, 1972. So little was elicited from Bennett that neither Department of
 Justice lawyers present to represent Secretary of Agriculture Earl H. Butz^{it} or Bennett's
 own lawyer, John Y. Merrill, of 6845 Elm Street, McLean, Virginia, found ~~it~~ necessary
 to ask any ~~clarifying~~ clarifying questions or interpose any opposition.)

11 4 13
Bennett was hired ~~effective~~ ^{Mullen's} as executive vice president in January, 1971. His promotion to president in September of that year coincided with the move of the offices to the 1700 Pennsylvania Avenue address. (Dunie deposition, pp. 6-7). Two months earlier Hunt's compensation was switched from \$24,000 a year to a per diem of \$125 a day. But the amount of time Hunt spent working for Mullen - and this should be qualified by "allegedly" - changed little when he went to work for Nixon. Instead of the 22-23 days he had allegedly worked for Mullen prior to joining the White House staff ~~he~~ "He would work anywhere from 17 to 20 or 21 days each month. (Dunie ~~affidavit~~ deposition, pp 9-10).

This is still almost full-time. 4A9

^{also swore}
Bennett ~~swore~~ he told Hunt "that we could not be in the position of charging the Government twice for the same day. Therefore, on days when he drew his \$100 a day consultant fee from the White House, he could not draw a fee from the Mullen Company." Thus the per diem. ^{Dunie} (Dunie deposition, p 10.)

Hunt kept his own records, with no check made on possible, "for our billings to HEW for his time." (Dunie deposition, p.11)

This is contrary to what HEW told me when I invoked the Freedom of information law, that there was a ^{non-negotiated} contract, ~~not negotiated~~, for a flat annual fee. And that Hunt was not only incompetent in that work but really didn't do much of it. Most was done by an older employee since retired, Betty Colclough.

It is impossible to check either the Mullen or the White House records because both were turned over to the government, Mullen's to the United States Attorney's office (Dunie deposition, p 11) and according to what John Dean wrote me when he was still Nixon's fair-haired and counsel, and I invoked the ~~law~~ same law in a request to Ken Clawson, who was then acting as White House spokesman, all their records were turned over to the FBI. In no official proceeding and in none of the many leaks has this information been divulged.

However, there is a kind of confirmation of what Bennett swore to in what Clawson told the Press. (Miami Herald, 6/25/72), that beginning July 6, 1971 ^{that year} Hunt worked only 63 ^{misled} days for the White House and until March 29, 24 days in 1972, "arch 29, Clawson gave the press to understand, was Hunt's last day of White House work. 4B

see note in file

Drumroll

4B.

Bennett's and Clawson's accounts of the work Hunt did for Nixon.

relevant

Both accounts are contradicted by all the documents in the White House files and by the extremely limited work Hunt did on the HEW contract. There simply wasn't enough time for Hunt to give to his old pal, Charles "~~Chuck~~" Chuck" Colson, Nixon's Special Counsel, under whom he worked officially but not in fact because of all the time ^{taken by} his work for ~~John~~

Chief of domestic affairs
Ehrlichman took

Insert Colson quote.

From Hunt's own Watergate committee testimony, he was more than busy, working more than full-time for Nixon. 514

exceptional relationships and
These contradictory accounts and this atypical "public relations" business focus interest on it and its founder and other personnel. It was a legitimate business, to the degree that such businesses are in Washington, but it was also unusual. Its founder was not exactly ^{a prototype of} the ~~typical~~ public-relations man.

From ~~the committee~~ what the committee suppressed from its public, televised hearings Hunt was even busier. He was interviewed before his testimony, which is not unusual. The staff prepared a lengthy witness summary, a partly-sanitized, to use the spook description, copy of which I have. The suppressions are significant, are not accidental, and despite the committee's contrary reputation, helped Nixon's survival considerably and at a crucial time for him.

professional

Richard Rudolf Mullen began life as a reporter for the Rocky Mountain News (1931-3),

and retired as a neighbor of Richard Nixon in superswank Key Biscayne, Nixon's home there is at

516 Bay Lane; Mullen's close by at 200 Galen Drive (Anderson 5/28/74 and Blue Book 1973 Washington Alphabetical Virginia Avenue, is the Washington work lesar's directory checking) After other newspaper experience, ~~hexspantxttexas~~

his World War II experience was not in the trenches ^{he was} but as a member of the public relations committee of the United States-United Kingdom Combined Boards. Thereafter,

until 1948, he was an editorial writer for Life magazine. (basic data, Who's Who.)

Simultaneously, he worked for the Kipping Kiplinger Service in Washington. He was director of information for the Economic Cooperation Administration from 1949-52. ^(ECA) He established

the public relations agency bearing his name in 1956, with offices at 1737 H Street, NW, in Washington and ~~then~~ at 420 Lexington Avenue, New York, ^{it} later moved in both cities,

to the PanAmerican Building in New York and to 1929 H Street, NW and then to ~~1935~~ ¹⁷⁰⁰ ~~Street, NW, when a new office building was erected there~~

1700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, across the ~~the~~ street from both the ~~Exe~~ Executive Office Building and CRPEP headquarters at 1701.

According to the files of Group Research in Washington, during 1964 he was a campaign manager for Henry Cabot Lodge, who sought the Republican nomination and was vice-presidential candidate ^{Barry Goldwater} and ^{Under Eisenhower he tried} was "trying to get public relations contracts from the Department of Agriculture while [Ezra Taft] Benson was Secretary." His work for Lodge was first as head of the "Draft Lodge" committee. Benson was an important Mormon

~~Republican~~ ~~well~~ ~~Christian~~ ~~Scientist~~ ~~Mullen~~ ~~rot~~ ~~Thex~~
A church official, ^{His} son, Reed, was later a top John Birch Society Society official. Secretary Benson, naturally enough, was influential in agricultural ^{and relig} circles. Mullen wrote a book, under a retainer from the Church of the Latter Day Saints. Not extraordinarily is it titled The Latter Day Saints (Doubleday, 1966). And in a single lobbying ^{of that period,} contract, ^{Mullen} dealing with rice, he was paid \$2,500 a month.

In time he obtained other valuable accounts for major business and industrial corporations, ^{like Sears Roebuck} one of the earlier being Sears, Roebuck. Robert Oliver, who represented Sperry, Hutchinson & Co and trades unions ^{was in} in the "Mullen firm," ^{He} is the father of R. Spencer Oliver, whose phone is the one the Hunt crew bugged successfully. ^{on their}

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~~Oliver maintained his own~~ offices earlier at

When Mullen was at 1729 H Street, Oliver maintained his own offices at 400 First Street, NW, on Capitol Hill. His registration of April 24, 1965 as a lobbyist lists ^{and trails among} Mullen's company as a client.

Mullen changed his Who's Who listing for the 1970-1 edition to include his having been public relations chief of ~~the~~ Citizens for Eisenhower in 1952 and publicity chairman for Nixon/Agnew in 1968.

Before his agency's Watergate exposure he had a Yellow Pages add including "Offices Around the World."

Personally, professionally and politically, Mullen was well-connected, particularly to a Nixon administration, having worked not ^{here} in unimportant posts when ^{Nixon} he ran with Eisenhower and when he was elected President. ^{here} Bennet's record and connections are a close parallel.

^{Mullen's} If they do not begin earlier, his connections with the CIA go back more than a decade, to the Bay of Pigs time. There is earlier possibility of association with Hunt and his Bay of Pigs/CIA superiors.

There were ^{was an} of Watergate offices
 (Here another strange ~~Watergate~~ twist should be noted. ~~the~~ earlier burglaries in
 which nothing of value was taken. ~~these were~~ ^{IF WED ON} the weekend of April 28, 1972. ~~One~~ ^{was entered}
 of ~~these was~~ the law firm of Freed, Frank, Harris Shriver and Kampelman, Shriver's firm.
 Some of the same Hunt crew were then registered at The Watergate's hotel section. Police
 would not disclose which ^{men.} They were then on a Hunt-Liddy project. *The Senate ignored this.*

(Partner Patricia Harris was then chairman of the credentials committee for the coming Democratic convention in Miami.

(Newspaper accounts (Post 6/21/72) identify partner Max Kampelman as "an adviser to [Senator and presidential candidate Hubert H.] Humphrey. " In his definitive study of Humphrey's career, The Drugstore Liberal, Robert Sherrill reports that Kampelman is not alone among earlier and continuing Humphrey associates and advisers with CIA connections. ^{for Nixon}

(During the period of Hunt's use of revanchist Cubans ^a whole series of burglaries in which nothing of ~~any~~ ^{value} was stolen were reported, including of Chilean government offices and officials' residences ^{in New York and Washington;} the ~~home~~ ^{not taken} Texas home of Democratic National Chairman Robert Strauss, where a fortune in jewels was ~~ignored~~ ^{and} the offices of the National Association ~~for~~ ^{And} the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) educational and legal defense fund; the home of CBS News White House correspondent Dan Rather, ^{strongly dis} liked by the White House. ^{Other} ~~These~~ cases ~~and those that~~ followed, ^{who?} ~~of which~~ The State Department building office of CBS News diplomatic correspondent and the office of Miami States Attorney Richard Gerstein's chief investigator, Martin Dardis, then investigating Barker and the Cubans, were ransacked and files left in disarray. (Post 7/28/73, SFC ^{phon} 8/22/72) Kalb was ^{on} an official "Enemies" list that the White House actually kept. During the Senate's Watergate hearings, ABC News' Washington office was burglarized. Five reels of ^{tape of} "sensitive information" including from confidential sources and ~~a~~ a folder of reporter's notes on the case were taken. (Post 8/23/73).

(One of these exotic crimes in which objects of value were not stolen, the break-in of the office of the psychiatrist consulted by Daniel Ellsberg, the man popularly credited with ~~leaking~~ ^{Hunt} the Pentagon Papers, was later exposed. It was ~~a~~ ^{Hunt-Liddy-Barker/Cubans'} job, directed by the White House. ~~Hunt was back to have been~~

9

It is not necessary to conjecture about Bennett ~~and~~ ^{worked for it} ~~personal~~ connections with the CIA because ~~his agency- did did but Mullen out-~~ was CIA and because his personal acts ~~make~~ that served its interest make direct payment ^{to him} an irrelevancy. The special services Bennett rendered after Hunt's name surfaced ^{helped Hunt,} were ~~in the interest of both the CIA and for~~ ^{high} ~~the Nixon~~ Nixon and others in the White House ^{hierarchy} ~~as a writer~~ ^{not methodology} ~~public relations~~. His ~~origin~~ ^{background} is not in writing. ^(pick up bio)

He was just under 40 ~~when~~ at the time of The Watergate. He is the son of Utah's ultra-conservative Republican Senator Wallace Bennett of whom Nixon ^{thought} ~~thinks~~ so much that he attended the Senator's 75th birthday party ^{long} ~~after~~ the Watergate, and there extolled the older Bennett.

Robert told Dobrovir ~~that~~ ^{the campaign} that he had been his father's campaign field director in 1962 and manager of it in 1968, for which he took a leave of absence from the J.C. Penney's offices at 1156 15 Street, NW. He had worked for Penney since ^{July} 1964. He took the leave of absence because he had to be "neutral" when "I represented Penney," so he ran his father's campaign "either on my own time or on a leave of absence basis." "He had to deal for Penney with ["] the elected officials of both parties. ["]

He was a Nixon appointee to the Department of Transportation in March 1969.

He was friendly with just about everyone at the White House and a number of ^{influential} Nixonians not there. White House documents disclose his relationships were first-name and nickname with Nixon's closest. When he told Dobrovir that "I have a number of friends on the White House staff whom I knew prior to going there, with whom I have maintained social [sic] contacts. Do you want a list of ~~these~~ people that I know on the White House staff?" instead of letting him name them Dobrovir got stuffy and limited it to those Bennett ^{might} ~~might~~ have had contact with during this period," of the dairy ~~no~~ ^{interest} money (p.34) With this limitation Bennett ticked off, "include Clark Macgregor, Tom Korologos, Desmond Barker, Charles Colson, Henry Cashen, John Dean, George Ball, Dick Cook, Gene Towns, Bill ^{Macgregor?} Magurder, and I have met others" whose names Dobrovir ~~asked~~ did not ask. (p.35)

He also had "dealings" with Colson, Cashen and Bell ~~in~~ [?] "in connection with" his Mullen business as distinguished from his dairy-interest/re-election campaign work. (p.41)

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taught Nixon dirty tricks and helped him
(p.40)
He knew the late~~d~~ Murray Chotiner, who ~~helped Nixon~~ ^{grad} break into politics, had been on his White House staff, had been a wheeler-dealer lawyer in Washington, and had his own involvement in Nixon's political spying ~~(p.40)~~ *through reporters he paid through reporters he hired to spy for him.*

The White House documents disclose that Bennett was also on a nickname basis with Ehrlichman. To put this another way, ~~he~~ ^{Bennett} was friendly with and close to all ~~those~~ ^{who} Nixon was at some point or another to claim was in charge of "his" what he called "investigation," and ~~Max~~ Dean, Ehrlichman, ~~MacGregor~~, who succeeded John Mitchell, ~~former Attorney General~~ ^{as} and head of CREEP when these scandals forced Mitchell's resignation.

What Bennett did for Nixon was ^{to} establish 100 secret front letterhead organizations that had no other existence to hide clandestine financial contributions to the re-election campaign, beginning the spring of 1971 (pp.6,10) This came about when "I engaged in conversation with a number of my Republican friends as to the kinds of things I might do that would not take a great deal of my time...but not duplicate ^{live of} the kind of things that a number of people would want me to be doing." So, "I made the decision that ~~one~~ thing I could do, drawing upon my background of political campaigns, would be to establish committees that could make it possible for these large contributors to make contributions to the President and avoid the gift tax." (pp.6-7)

~~Max~~ "I contacted an attorney to make sure the [sic] charter would be drafted in a way which would comply with existing laws," then "I proceeded to recruit a number of my friends...asking them to serve as chairmen of such committees, and asking them to ask their friends...each one was on a different committee of a different name, submitted the charters to Mr. Ritchie, at the Union Trust Bank, with the request that he obtain ~~treasurers~~ ^{treasurers} because we required a separate treasurer for each committee." (pp.7-8).

Asked here with whom he discussed this project, he named Hugh Sloan and Lee Nunn, ^{Nixon} of the CREEP/~~White House~~ re-election endeavor. He was not asked to name others, if any, in the White House. "It was my own idea." (p.9)

^{level of} His legal advice on these Nixon fronts came from a good source, reflecting still another connection: "I met with Tom Evans at one time when he was here, to ask for help in getting the legal background for the committees." (p.20) ~~Who~~ is Tom Evans? "He is a lawyer in the Mudge, Rose law firm in New York." (p.30) This is the Nixon-Mitchell firm.

11
Bennett
He also had meetings with Herbert Kalmbach, Nixon's person^y lawyer in California, referring to him as "Herb." (pp 26-7)

Tom Rose appears to have provided "the draft charters." (p.31)

Bennett ~~is~~ knows people. Names dropped like rain in the spring. Among those linked to these fake committees Dean Pohlenz "was Senator Roman Hruska's administrative assistant." (p.32) Hruska, who is as far to the right as the Senate chamber holds, is one of Nixon's strongest and most uncritical supporters. His committee memberships include ~~the~~ Judiciary.

Mullen organized 100 such committees. ~~but said only 50 were executives~~ When asked *I have pointed out that* about "The first 50 of these committees seem to show treasurers in the Union Trust Building," Bennett replied that Ritchie of the bank "recruited" them. With whom did he discuss committees numbered "from 51" ^{an of them} in the exhibit Bennett ~~claimed~~ ^{he} claimed "My memory is dim on that" but "I would assume it would be Hugh Sloan." (p.11) Sloan ^{the treasurer} was one of the first of the Nixon campaign crew to confess and enter a guilty plea to Watergate crimes.

In this ^{area} ~~rea~~ Bennett had a bad memory. Did he speak "to anybody at the National Savings and Trust Company about these committees - the second group of committees," ^{he said,} "I had one conversation with a gentleman whose name I can't recall." (p 12)

From this one would gather that Bennett's campaign-fund laundering operation was limited to what ^{blew} ~~blew~~ into a major scandal and an impeachable offense, ^{by way of} this illicit dairy-industry fortune ~~that~~ was paid back immediately by a raise in dairy price supports only two weeks after the Agriculture Department ruled against them and the day after the White House received reassurance on the earlier pledge of \$2,000,000, in which Colson had had a hassle with dairy lawyer Marion Harrison. (Post 6/7/74) Bennett claimed to have known Harrison socially only. (Pp 20-1)

delivery of funds to Ritchie
Bennett admitted to the ~~handling of funds~~ "on one occasion." "These funds "were given to me by Hugh Sloan" in the form of about 50 checks from individuals. (pp 17-8) "They were made out from political action committees, the exact nature of which I was not familiar with. They were for \$2,500 apiece, made out to the various committees." (p.19)

Now although his association with Harrison was social only, "At some point before the check arrived. I did hear the phrase 'the milk people'" Sloan ~~had~~ said, "We will be

using your committees, the milk people." (pp 43-4)

One of the almost ^{all} milkmen was Hunt, chairman of one of the committees ^{political prominent} else of which had high-blown names suggestive of the best kind of government. "He was recruited [sic] while he was a consultant ~~at~~ in the White House" but "After the contributions were made [he] asked that he resign" because "it might be embarrassing" to the White House. (p21.) But, "...the records of the Union Trust Company shows [sic] that no account was ever opened for the committee of which Mr. Hunt was chairman" and "I did not deliberately remove it." (p 22)

^{private "Sinister Sources"} Bank records (like the Nixon tapes of June 20, 1972?

These accounts "were opened towards the end of August " ~~1971~~ 1971. (pp. 17-8) He said that while the checks were dated July 9, "they were deposited between August 10th and August 20th." (p 24)

If it is wrong for Hunt, who was ~~employee~~ on the "White House payroll, to engage in this kind of political subterfuge activity so reminiscent of his spooking, or if as the narrow-minded might believe, it ran afoul of the Hatch Act for a man paid by executive-agency funds to be laundering ~~for~~ Nixon's political funds - Hunt was assigned to the Mullen-HEW contract and ~~Bette~~ Bennett said spent almost all his time on it - these may not have been the greatest potential for White House embarrassment through Hunt's involvement in them.

^{This time}

These ~~date~~ coincide with a plan to break into the office and the safe of Hank Greenspun, ~~Ren~~ newspaper publisher and then enemy of the recluse eccentric billionaire, Howard Hughes. McCord (1H125ff) and Hunt (9H3686-7) both testified to it. It was to have been a Hunt-Liddy operation on which Hunt actually had meetings on both coasts with Hughes' chief of security, Ralph Winte (right). Hunt testified that "The plan was dropped." On Hughes part, not that of Nixon's safe-crackers. Hunt inferred ~~been~~

^{bag men and their} this is because Hughes, who had been supposed to provide a plane to fly the safecrackers ^{take a few} to Nicaragua, did not supply the plane. As the writer in Hunt put it, "in any event the availability of the aircraft had been declined."

Whether or not the plan was "dropped," at the right time there ^{might have} was a burglarizing of Greenspun's office, through the window, and an unsuccessful effort was made to break into his safe. It was reported in the newspapers.

How did all this start? Hunt testified that "my employer, Mr. Robert Bennett, informed me that he had heard a rumor around Las Vegas to the effect that a publisher named Hank Greenspun had information which would 'blow Muskie out of the water' in case Muskie became a candidate." [sic] (Nixon spy) The psy gang greeted this enthusiastically, ^{when Hunt reported it.} Hunt touched base again with Bennett and Bennett set up the ^{first} Winte meeting.

What this testimony does not show is that Bennett was also Hughes' Washington representative! It was not secret, had been reported in the papers.

Greenspun had no ^{damaging} such information about Muskie. What he did have was indeed "embarrassing" to Nixon: notes ~~from Hughes~~ in Hughes' own handwriting to him then ^{Jobs} jack-of-all-trades Robert Maheu, former FBI man and one of Hughes' behind-the-scenes operators. Hughes had actually thought he could buy Nixon and run the country through him, had spelled this all out, and long before there was any Watergate the story had been leaked to Jack M. Anderson, who quoted copies of Hughes' instructions.

Earlier there had been a sordid arrangement in which, despite the advice of Hughes' Noah Dietrich, ~~Maheu~~ Donald then lawyer, ~~Maheu~~ Nixon's brother had "borrowed" \$205,000 from Hughes "secured" by a parcel of land worth only a fraction of the "loan" that was never repaid.

And there ^{were transfers} ~~was a transfer~~ of Nixon's Hughes money to Nixon after he was President. One was by another Hughes honcho, Richard Danner, ~~who replaced Maheu when Hughes and~~

~~Maheu had a falling out.~~ (Post 3/5/74) ~~THE SUNDAY~~ That \$100,000, in \$100 bills, was given to Nixon's closest crony Charles G. "Bebe" Rebozo. ^{Danner was Nixon's guest at Camp David. Nixon appreciates.}

This story is even seamier because at the time ^{long-time} Hughes retained ^{Max Cox} as outside counsel the law firm of ~~Davis and Cox~~, Chester Davis and Max Cox. ~~And Cox~~ is the brother of Archibald Cox, who was Special Watergate Prosecutor at the time of the Senate Watergate Committee's hearings when they went into none of this. When Archibald Cox, who might have had to prosecute had Nixon not fired him in what was known as "The Saturday Night Massacre" ^{earlier} of October 1973, ^{was} asked about this seeming conflict, he replied blandly, "It never entered my mind." And when the Watergate committee suppressed so sensational a story

and at the end of the day's testimony ⁱⁿ which the committee avoided going into ^{it} this wrote a chapter of ~~a~~ the then planned longer book and submitted the rough draft to my agent, I lost my agent. ^{simply} He could not believe ~~this~~ could all be true. But the fact is it ^{is} ~~was~~ all in one way or another publicly available, ~~by~~ ~~from~~ a combination of sources.

Not until much later and then entirely in secret, except for what indignant members of ~~committee~~ staff leaked, did the committee go into this. Then the office of special prosecutor followed. Very late, too late and after public stink about it. Even then there was not as much ^{in what was leaked} as I had in that rough draft in what was leaked and the only allegation not in it was that Rebozo had distributed the money to Nixon's family and secretary, Rose Mary Woods, an allegation promptly denied.

There is no possibility of doubt that what the Hunt-Liddy gang were to steal from Greenspun's safe is these Hughes memos. In his May 23, 1974 column Jack Anderson admitted to having copies, so if successful the theft would have been without point. This is typical of the entire Nixon gestapo operation through his political machine and through Hunt and Liddy. Their persistent break ^{ing} of the law was for ^{some} utilities, what could mean anything to twisted minds only.

That earlier and over-long book also had a detailing of Nixon's personal shadiness with money and even breaking-and-entering acts going back to his college days, all from public source and all never put together during all the reporting of The Watergate.

His famous "Checkers" speech was a masterpiece of obfuscation and tear-jerking but the fact he got around is that ^{as Senator} he had taken money from rich Californians under the table. During the ^{his} 1962 ^{campaign for} attempt he made to become governor of California he was caught "buying" Beverly Hills a lot for less than the mortgage on it and selling it at a high percentage of profit.

None of this dubious Nixon family record with money- and they ^{have have it} ~~are~~ all involved, even a nephew - was new. If it is not because most of the press is Republican owned perhaps it is because of a monarchical attitude we have developed toward the president that the committee ignored and the press never put together and the prosecutor ^{ion} delayed going into it.

Bennett was more involved than by providing the excuse for the planned heist ^{for Nixon and Hughes} by

After he lost that campaign he, ^dand Haldeman and others were found guilty in a civil suit in which they had been charged with getting money by ^{falsely} ~~representing themselves~~ [&] a committee they set up as a Democratic committee. In the same operation they also conducted a fake poll, faithfully repeated in the 1972 election. When Senator Daniel Inoye of Hawaii tried to go into this during Haldeman's testimony (7H2866), Wilson claimed this precedent was not germane. He was upheld by chairman Sam Ervin so none of it is in the committee's record nor was it reported to those who did not know of it and were watching on TV - most of the country.

Hunt, Liddy and Spookery ^{for Nixon}. Despite his sworn testimony in the quoted deposition, which makes it appear that all his bank money-laundries were for "milk money" only, ^{Bennett} ~~he~~ handled, personally, the other known Hughes contribution ^{of} Nixon.

This was ^{long hidden} in another deposition taken by Dunie and kept secret by the judge, Charles R. Richey. The suit was that of the Democrats. Richey was described in ^{White House} documents John Dean produced to the Watergate committee as sitting on the civil suits until after the election, having been improperly approach^{ed} by an intermediary, a charge Richey immediately denied. ^{of this secret deposition} The St. Louis Post-Dispatch obtained a copy in early January, 1964. (SFChron 1/10/74, from AP)

Dunie deposed Sally Harmony, who had been Liddy's secretary. Liddy is the legal eagle who cooked up the scheme that if contributions were made under the Corrupt Practises ^{old} Act of 1965, before the effective date of the new election law, April 8, 1972, they could be kept secret. In part this was ruled illegal by another ~~Washing~~ federal district court judge, ^{27?} June Green. on June 7, 1974. The ruling, in favor of ^{the} public-interest groups Tax Analysts and Advocates, held that gift taxes could not be avoided by breaking political contributions down into ~~units~~ units not exceeding \$3,000. (Post 6/8/74)

Mrs. Harmony testified ~~that Bennett~~ to getting ¹⁶ ~~17~~ of "Bob Bennett's" blank, signed checks and filling in the name of the Nixon front through which they were to be laundered. Bennett then admitted to reporters that each of these was for \$3,000, that the date was the very last possible under the Liddy formula, April 7, and that he had personally ~~written~~ written a 17th check for \$2,000, making the total \$50,000.

It was "Howard Hughes' money," Mrs. Harmony testified.

Bennett was not a witness before The Watergate or any other investigation. And the foregoing - incomplete - record was never put together by the media. Some of it the most honored reporters and newspapers refused to investigate, as others less honored also did.

^{get re-elected and then} It helped Richard Nixon remain President. ~~for several years~~

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With or without CIA connections evaluated, the histories of Mullen and Bennett seem to be of men of the conservative wing of the Republican party and of wheelers-dealers. Actually - again with or without CIA connection being evaluated - ^{that} ~~the~~ agency was a veritable nest of the far-right, well past what is encompassed by what to me is the respectable designation "conservative." There was involvement in Hitlerite projects, ~~of the kind Colson specialized~~ Colson's White House specialty. There was Watergating before The Watergate, in the White House and at Mullen.

Bennett could not have been unaware of this from the ~~time of his first association.~~ ~~He did know about~~ Yet ^{he} knowing it ~~he~~ bought Mullen out. He knew of ^{Hunt's} ~~those~~ White House activities Hunt himself described as "seamy" and testified to them in ~~deep~~ depositions. This is not to suggest that the Mullen agency did not do what in public relations in Washington goes for legitimate work, for it did. In spite of Hunt its work for HEW was good in even the description of those who disliked Hunt and appreciated that others did the real work. Mullen had ^{Prestigious} ~~the best~~ accounts. ~~of which two that will become relevant~~ ^{it also was mixed in} illustrate this, General Foods and Howard Hughes. But let it not remain secret, the relevance is in what Hunt called "seamy."

So we have Hunt connected with the Mullen & agency while he was working for The Agency; Mullen simultaneously and continuously an Agency front even after The Watergate; dozens and dozens of people knowing it and remaining silent after The Watergate broke; Bennett, despite contrary pretenses in public, in private the intimate of just about all the top White House people; he and Mullen personally involved in Nixon's campaigns; then Hunt working for Mullen while he worked for ~~the White~~ Nixon, which amounts to a taxpayer subsidy of Nixon's dirty-works - and that is criminal as to date has not been suggested; and many other exceptional circumstances and relationships all involving faces of the multitudinous black diamond of spooking.

Bennett, personally, did many favors for Nixon, the White House, the CIA and at least some clients. One of the more significant is his public relations work when Hunt disappeared. *That also aided Hunt. It was essential to the cover-up that really is the obstructing of justice.*